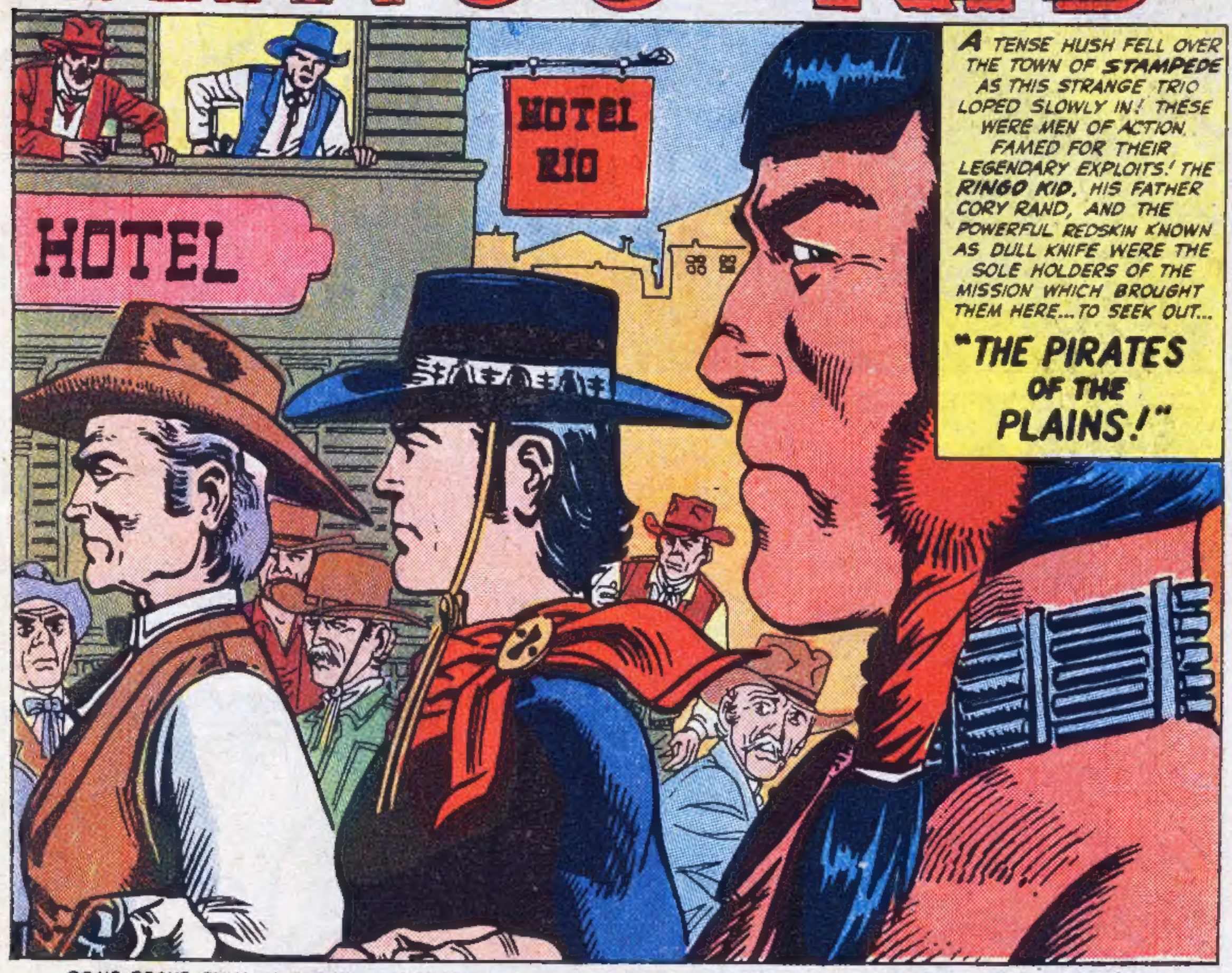
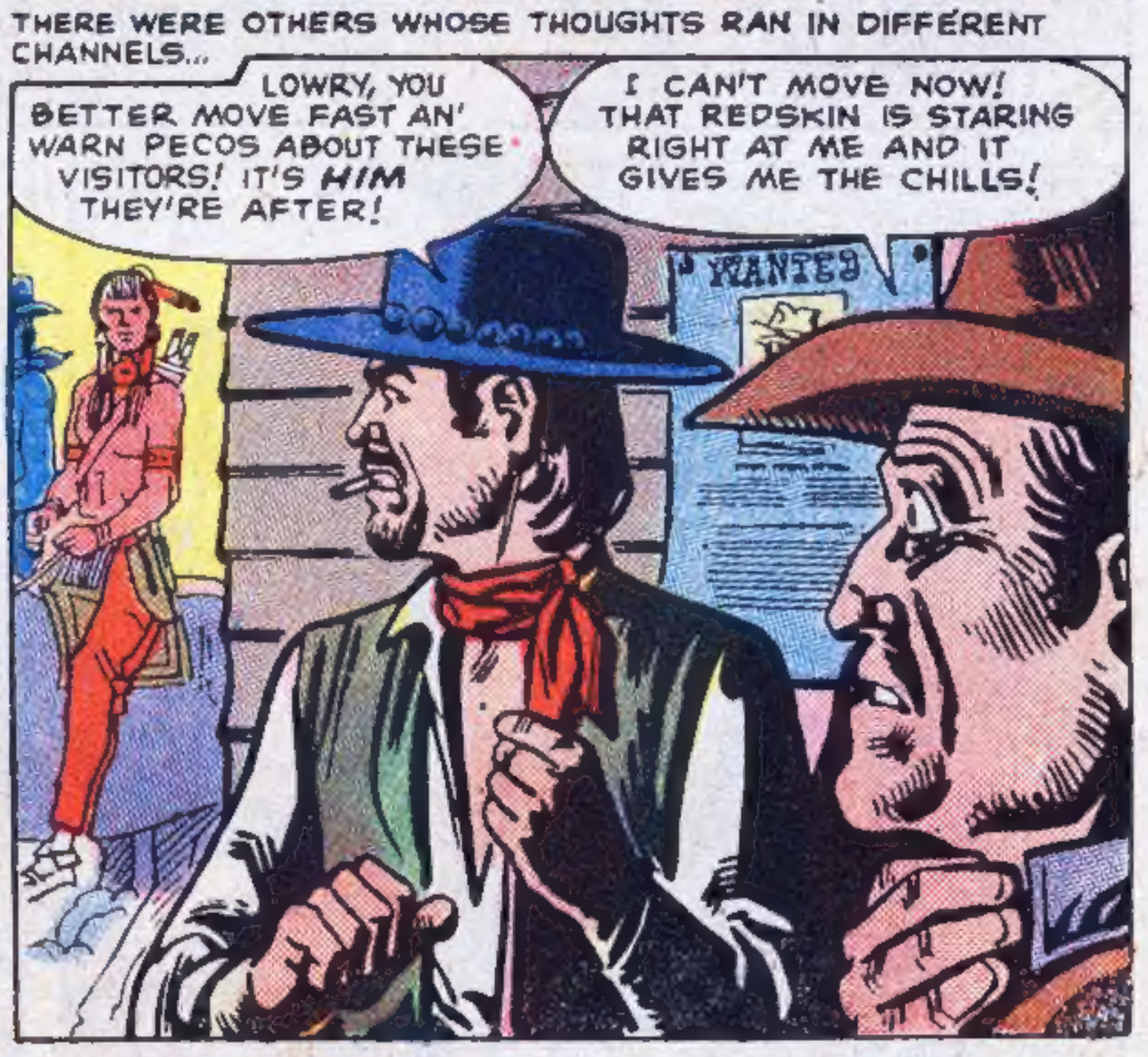
ALL NEW RINGO KID ACTION
RINGO KID
RINGO! THE NAME THAT MAKES KILLERS TREMBLE!
WAS THIS TO BE THE KID'S "LAST CHALLENGE!"
"MAKE EVERY BULLET COUNT!"

RINGO KID


HOTEL RIO
HOTEL
A TENSE HUSH FELL OVER THE TOWN OF STAMPEDE AS THIS STRANGE TRIO LOPED SLOWLY IN! THESE WERE MEN OF ACTION. FAMED FOR THEIR LEGENDARY EXPLOITS! THE RINGO KID, HIS FATHER CORY RAND, AND THE POWERFUL REDSKIN KNOWN AS DULL KNIFE WERE THE SOLE HOLDERS OF THE MISSION WHICH BROUGHT THEM HERE... TO SEEK OUT...
"THE PIRATES OF THE PLAINS!"

SOME SPOKE ONLY IN HUSHED WHISPERS...

THERE WERE OTHERS WHOSE THOUGHTS RAN IN DIFFERENT CHANNELS...


LOWRY, YOU BETTER MOVE FAST AN' WARN PECOS ABOUT THESE VISITORS! IT'S HIM THEY'RE AFTER!
I CAN'T MOVE NOW! THAT REDSKIN IS STARING RIGHT AT ME AND IT GIVES ME THE CHILLS!
WANTED

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THEY DISMOUNTED CALMLY BEFORE THE LAST CHANCE SALOON..

THIS IS WHERE HE HANGS OUT! COVER ME OUT HERE! I'LL GO INSIDE AND TALK!

PECOS IS TREACHEROUS, SON! HE'LL LET HIS GUNS DO THE TALKING, SO KEEP YOUR HANDS LIMBER!

THE RINGO KID'S PRESENCE WAS FELT EVEN BEFORE HE ENTERED..

THIS PLACE FEELS AWFULLY CHILLY ALL OF A SUDDEN!

YEAH! I'VE FELT THAT CHILL BEFORE! IT'S THE COLD THAT SETS IN WHEN A GUN-FIGHT IS BREWING!

THERE'S YOUR GUN-FIGHT, PECOS! AN' HE'S LOOKIN' RIGHT AT US!

WATCH ME FOR THE PLAY!

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, SPEAK UP AND KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN!

MY HANDS ARE CLEAN, BUT *YOURS* ARE FOULED, PECOS! -I'M HERE TO SQUARE THINGS FOR THE PAWNEES YOU ROBBED!

YOU'RE GAMBLING WITH MONEY YOU GOT BY SELLING THE ENTIRE PAWNEE WINTER CATCH OF FURS YOU STOLE! GET A SACK AND START FILLING IT!

IF I FILL ANYTHING, IT WILL BE WITH LEAD!

I WANT A CLEAN COUNT, SO DON'T LET ANY CHANGE GET AWAY!

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU GOT FOR THOSE FURS AND HIDES, SO START FILLING A SACK!

CAMPREY, GET A SACK AND FILL IT UP! WE'LL SETTLE SCORES ANOTHER TIME!

MINUTES LATER...

I'D BE WILLING TO BET EVERY PESO YOU'VE GOT BETWEEN YOUR TEETH THAT YOU'LL PAY ME BACK DOUBLE FOR THIS!

STAND CLEAR, YOU FOLKS! THE PARTY'S OVER!

GET THE HORSES, DULL KNIFE! WE'VE GOT TO PUT THIS MONEY IN A SAFE PLACE!

IT WAS AN ASTOUNDED MARSHAL WHO HALTED THE TRIO ON THE STEPS OF THE STAMPEDE BANK...

WAITAMINUTE, YOU THREE! HAVE YOU GOT HONEST BUSINESS IN THIS BANK?

I RECKON SO, MARSHAL! WE HAVE QUITE A DEPOSIT TO MAKE IN THE NAME OF THE PAWNEE TRIBE!

I... ER, CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL RIGHT, THOUGH!

IT SURE IS, HIRAM! RINGO TOLD ME THE STORY! NOW JUST PUT THAT DEPOSIT TO THE CREDIT OF THE PAWNEE CHIEF AND HIS PEOPLE!

MEANWHILE...

YOU BOYS GO OUT AN' BUY WHAT WE NEED! THOSE PAWNEES WILL NEVER SEE ANOTHER PIECE OF FUR AFTER WE'RE FINISHED!

WE'LL GET THE STUFF, PECOS, BUT I THINK WE MAY GET OURSELVES BURNED ON A DEAL LIKE THIS!

LATER THAT DAY...

LET'S SEE NOW... WE'LL NEED BACON, FLOUR AND A FEW TINS OF LAMP OIL!

IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO GET WHAT WE NEED, DAD!

GENERAL STORE

FUNNY, YOU HOMBRES ASKIN' FOR LAMP OIL! SOME HARDCASES CAME IN HERE A WHILE BACK AN' BOUGHT UP EVERY LAST BIT I HAD!

WELL, MAYBE WE CAN GET SOME AT ANOTHER PLACE! THANKS, AMIGO!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BUT WHEREVER THEY WENT, THE STORY WAS THE SAME...

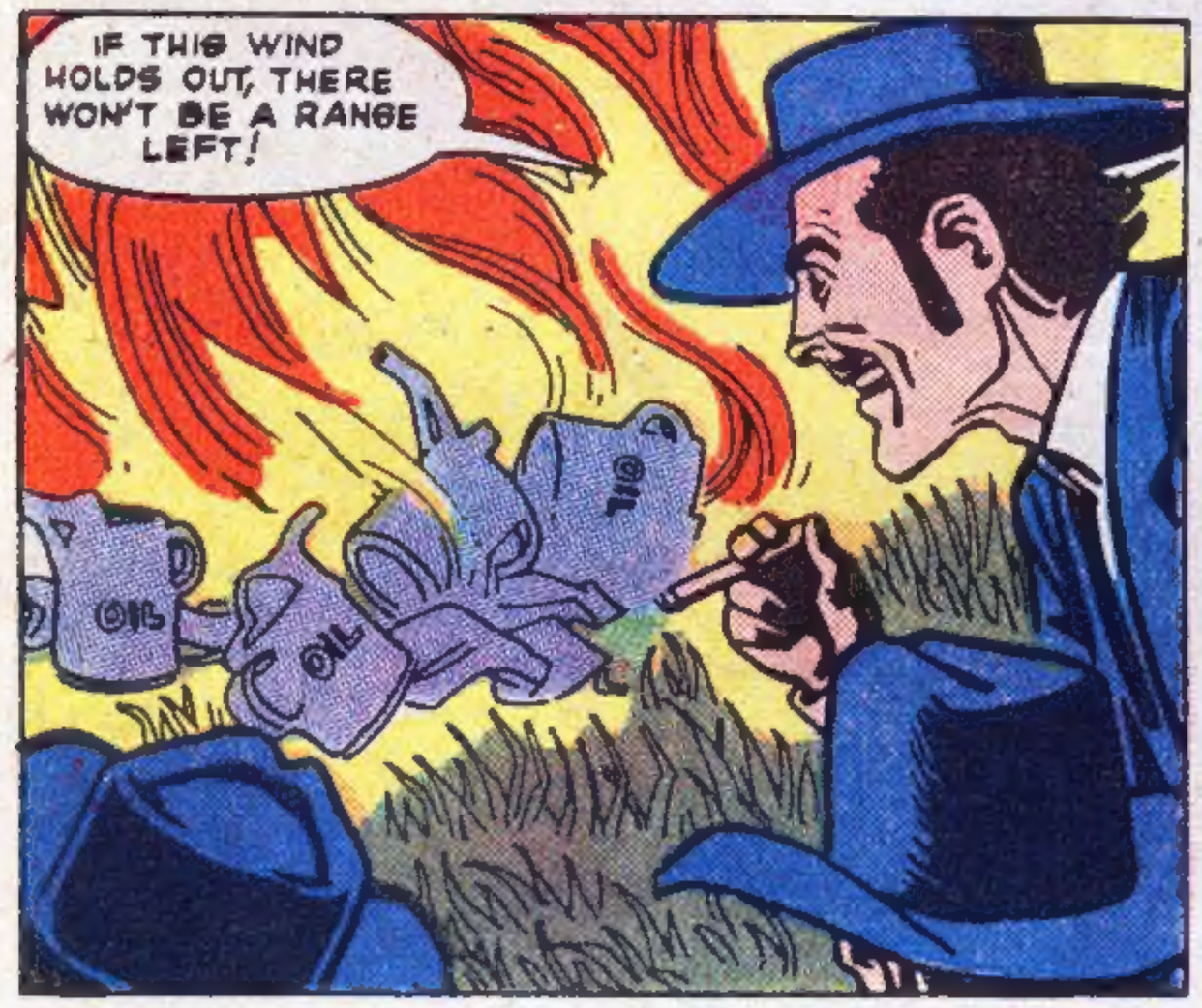
THAT'S IT, BOYS... I'M CLEANED OUT! THOSE HOMBRES BOUGHT UP A MESS OF GUNNYSACKS, TOO!
LAMP OIL AND GUNNYSACKS, EH? THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE COMBINATION!
OIL

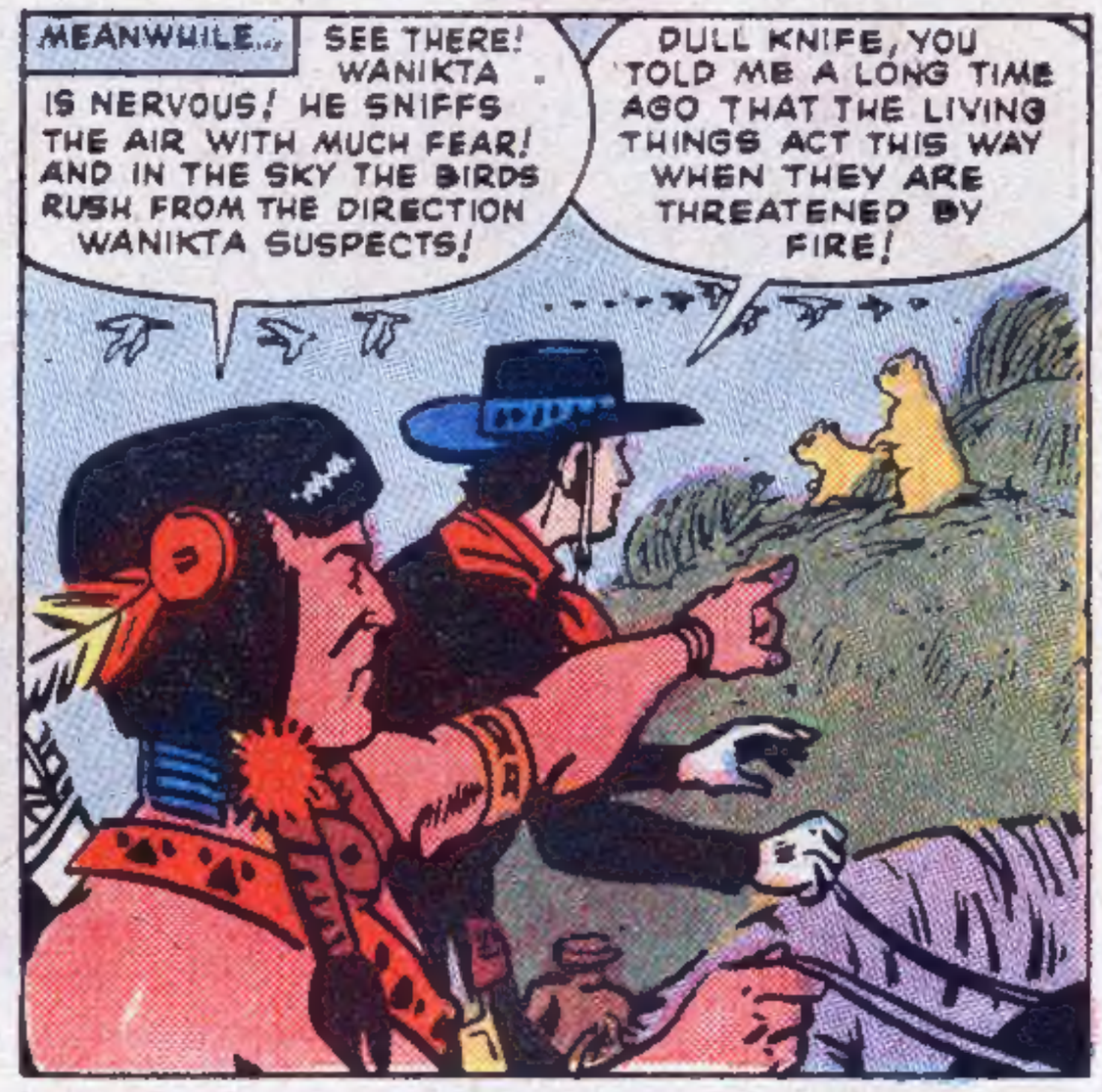
THERE'S NO DOUBT FROM THE DESCRIPTION THAT IT WAS PECOS AND HIS RAMRODS WHO BOUGHT UP THE OIL AND GUNNY-SACKS... BUT WHY?
I KNOW PECOS' BREED! HE'LL NEVER REST UNTIL HE CAN EVEN THE SCORE! WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE OIL AND SACKS FIT IN!

MEANWHILE, ON THE TINDER-DRY PRAIRIE...

THE GRASS IS DRY AND THE WIND'S JUST RIGHT! THOSE PAWNEES WILL HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING FOOD, LET ALONE FURS! BOYS, SPREAD OUT AN' START THE FIRES GOING!

THE OIL-SOAKED GUNNYSACKS DID THEIR WORK WELL, AND IN A FEW MINUTES...




MEANWHILE...
SEE THERE! WANIKTA IS NERVOUS! HE SNIFFS THE AIR WITH MUCH FEAR! AND IN THE SKY THE BIRDS RUSH FROM THE DIRECTION WANIKTA SUSPECTS!
DULL KNIFE, YOU TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO THAT THE LIVING THINGS ACT THIS WAY WHEN THEY ARE THREATENED BY FIRE!

FIRE! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT'S WHAT THOSE GUNNY-SACKS AND OIL WERE FOR... TO SET A PRAIRIE FIRE!
YOU ARE RIGHT, BROTHER! AND WANIKTA TELLS US THE FIRE COMES FROM THE NORTH! LET US HURRY!

MINUTES LATER...
THERE IS THE FIRE, AND ITS MANY TONGUES LEAP WITH HUNGER! ALL WILL BE DESTROYED IF WE CANNOT STOP IT!
I HAVE AN IDEA! I SAW A TRIBE OF MANDANS FIGHT FIRE YEARS AGO BY A STRANGE METHOD! WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LARGE HERD OF BISON TO HELP US!

THE MANDANS DROVE A HERD OF BUFFALOES ACROSS A RIVER AND THEN STAMPEDED THEM ACROSS THE PATH OF THE FIRE!

I GET IT! THE DRENCHED ANIMALS BEAT DOWN THE GRASS AND MADE A NATURAL BARRIER AGAINST THE FIRE! LET'S MOVE, AMIGOS!

THEY WORKED FAST, RACING AGAINST TIME IN A DESPERATE AND DARING EFFORT TO HALT DISASTER...

DULL KNIFE! FLANK THEM ACROSS SO THEY WON'T TURN AROUND! DAD, GET TO THE OTHER SIDE AND HEAD THEM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

THE GREAT HERD OF CHARGING BEASTS SURGED ACROSS THE RIVER TO SAFETY BUT WERE HEADED OFF AGAIN...

YIPPEE! MOVE, YOU THUNDERING VARMINTS!

POUNDING HOOFS TORE DEEP INTO THE SOFT PRAIRIE AS SHEER NUMBERS CHURNED THE GRASS AND LEFT A WAKE OF MUD...

THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE CAN DO, DULL KNIFE!

THE GREAT SPIRIT WILL NOT ABANDON HIS PEOPLE NOW!

AND AS THOUGH THE GREAT SPIRIT HAD HEARD, THE WIND CHANGED AND THE FLAMES DIED UPON THE RATH TORN OUT BY THE BISON...

ALL IS WELL! THE WIND HAS CHANGED AND THE HUNGRY FLAMES DIE WITHOUT FUEL!

MEANWHILE, PAWNEE VENGEANCE WAS REACHING OUT WITH LONG, RELENTLESS HANDS...

YOU TALK THEIR LANGUAGE, ORTEZ! MAKE A DEAL WITH 'EM! PROMISE THEM ANYTHING! I DON'T WANT TO DIE THEIR WAY!

OUR WAY IS FOR OUR PEOPLE! YOUR PUNISHMENT MUST COME FROM THE WHITE MAN'S LAW!

LATER, IN THE TOWN OF STAMPEDE...

THESE RANGE PIRATES WILL ROAM NO MORE, BELIEVE ME!

JAIL

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR US, MARSHAL... I'M SURE THE CHIEF IS SATISFIED, TOO!

THE END

RINGO KID

KEEP YOUR HEELS STEADY AND YOUR HANDS CLEAN!

CATTLEMAN'S BANK

IT WAS FIVE AGAINST ONE...TEN GUNS AGAINST THE PAIR OF MENACING COLTS IN THE HANDS OF A MAN TO WHOM GUNPLAY WAS A FINE ART! THE ODDS WERE STACKED AGAINST THE ***RINGO KID,*** BUT HIS GUNS WERE READY FOR...

"THE LAST CHALLENGE!"

THE RINGO KID'S GUNS SWAYED FROM SIDE TO SIDE COVERING THE OUTLAWS...

LISTEN HARD, YOU BUSHWHACKERS! DROP THE LOOT ON THE FLOOR AND DON'T REACH FOR HARDWARE!

THE BOOTY-FILLED GUNNYSACKS THUDDED TO THE FLOOR, BUT AS THEY DID...

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE TO FREEZE! NOW START FANNING!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SIX-GUN LEAD RATTLED FROM THE KID'S GUNS WITH UNERRING ACCURACY...

GRAB THE LOOT AND BREAK FOR THE HORSES! WE'LL HOLD HIM!

YOU'LL HOLD THIN AIR, THAT'S ALL!

THEY MADE THE BREAK, BUT THE KID WAS READY...

TWO DOWN AND THREE TO FREEZE! NOBODY'S GOING ANY PLACE!

IF YOU'RE HEADING OUT OF TOWN YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK!

THAT'S BETTER!

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S BETTER WHEN WE GET A CHANCE TO EVEN THE SCORE!

ALL RIGHT, RINGO! WE'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE! I NEVER FIGURED *YOU'D* BE ON THIS SIDE OF A BANK JOB!

YOU *NEVER* FIND *ME* ON THE WRONG SIDE, SHERIFF!

WAIT A MINUTE, RINGO! IT'S MY DUTY TO HOLD YOU AS A MATERIAL WITNESS! YOU'D BETTER HANG AROUND!

MATERIAL WITNESS FOR *WHAT*, SHERIFF? ARE YOU GOING TO READ THE LAW TO ME FOR STOPPING A BANK HOLDUP?

BETTER TAKE IT EASY, AMIGO! I'M JUST DOING MY DUTY!

I UNDERSTAND, SHERIFF... I'LL STAY!

LATER, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

JACK, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A DUSTY STATUTE ON YOUR SIDE, BUT I THINK YOU'RE STRETCHING THE LAW IF YOU HOLD RINGO!

MARSHAL, I DON'T INTERPRET THE LAW...I ENFORCE IT! IF THE COUNCIL DECIDES TO LET HIM GO, THAT'S OKAY WITH ME! UNTIL THEN I'M LOCKING HIM UP!

RINGO, MEET JOHNNY TUMBLEWEED HORN, THE MOST ORNERY ROAD AGENT THIS SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE! WE'RE PUSHED FOR SPACE, SO YOU TWO HOMBRES WILL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH EACH OTHER A WHILE!

THAT LAWMAN JUST HATES TO FORGET I QUIT THE LAW-DODGING TRAIL YEARS AGO! WHAT'S *YOUR* TROUBLE?

I MADE THE MISTAKE OF COLD-GUNNING A BUNCH OF RAMRODS WHO WERE RUNNING OFF WITH A MESS OF BANK MONEY!

YOU STOPPED A ROBBERY OF CHET GUTHRIE'S BANK? THAT'S A LAUGH! HE'S THE MAN WHO HOUNDED ME INTO THIS CELL! GUTHRIE FORCED ME INTO THE LIFE OF A ROAD AGENT!

NOBODY FORCES A MAN INTO A CROOKED LIFE! HOW DO YOU FIGURE GUTHRIE DID THAT?

I STRUCK A RICH CLAIM FIVE YEARS AGO AND BANKED MY MONEY WITH GUTHRIE! THEN I FOUND OUT HE HAD HIRED SOME RAMRODS TO ROB THE BANK AND CLEAN ME OUT!

THAT SOUNDS WILD, BUT INTERESTING! GO ON!

WELL, I GOT THERE BEFORE THE RAMRODS DID AND JUST WITHDREW MY ACCOUNT! GUTHRIE MADE IT LOOK LIKE *I* ROBBED THE BANK! I'VE BEEN DRIFTING EVER SINCE, BUT I GOT A STAKE HIDDEN AWAY!

YOU'RE IN **MY** SHOES, AMIGO! WE'LL SPEND OUR LIVES TRYING TO LIVE DOWN SOMETHING WE NEVER DID!

RINGO, THE COUNCIL JUST ENDED THEIR MEETING! I'M SORRY, BUT THEY DECIDED YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL FOR BEING IN A TOWN WHICH IS OFF LIMITS TO YOU!

THAT'S MIGHTY INTERESTING, SHERIFF! YOU TELL YOUR COUNCIL I'LL STAY HERE UNTIL I REST UP...AND THEN I'LL BE LEAVING!

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THAT'S A TOUGH BREAK... ESPECIALLY SINCE CHET GUTHRIE IS HEAD OF THE COUNCIL!

JOHNNY, WE'LL BE OUT OF THIS CORRAL BY SUNSET! JUST TAKE IT EASY UNTIL THEN!

MEANWHILE, AN IMAGE WHICH HADN'T MOVED SINCE NOON SLOWLY STIRRED...

THE SUN GOES TO SLEEP AND IT IS TIME TO ACT! MY WHITE BROTHER HAS BEEN REWARDED WITH IRON BARS FOR HIS BRAVERY! THE LAWS OF THE WHITE MAN ARE STRANGE INDEED!

JAIL

TAKE THE ROPE, RINGO! I WILL TRAIL THE OTHER END TO ARAB'S SADDLE! I MUST GO NOW TO FIND YOUR GUNS!

GOOD! BRING ANOTHER HORSE HERE AND FETCH TWO MORE GUNS FOR MY FRIEND! HE HAS SUFFERED MUCH WRONG AND IS COMING WITH US!

MINUTES LATER...

GOOD ENOUGH! I HOPE DULL KNIFE GOT THOSE GUNS FOR US!

MAKE HASTE! THE HORNETS ARE STIRRING IN THE NEST!

WE'RE READY TO TRAVEL!

MEANWHILE, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

GUTHRIE! HAVE YOU GONE LOCO? I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THOSE PRISONERS! THEY BOTH BROKE LOOSE!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, YOU BLUNDERING FOOL! TAKE THOSE KEYS AND RELEASE MY BOYS...THE HOMBRES YOU JAILED FOR ROBBING MY BANK!

GUTHRIE! IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW... THOSE HOMBRES WORKED FOR *YOU!* I'M GLAD RINGO AND JOHNNY HORN GOT AWAY!

THEY WON'T GET FAR! HORN WILL LEAD US RIGHT TO THE SPOT WHERE HE CACHED THAT FORTUNE HE DUG UP! NOW GET MY BOYS OUT!

MOMENTS LATER...

RIDE HARD, BOYS! I'M STAKING EVERYTHING ON THIS BREAK!

MEANWHILE...

WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED!

I FIGURED GUTHRIE WOULD TRACK ME CLOSE! HE THINKS I'LL LEAD HIM TO MY STAKE!

JOHNNY, WE CAN THROW THEM OFF IF YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME! WE'RE GOING TO DECOY THE LOT OF THEM OUT IN HOT SPRING FLATS!

IF YOU'VE GOT AN IDEA, SPILL IT!

THE JAWS OF THE TRAP WERE SPREAD WIDE BY THE TIME GUTHRIE AND HIS RAMRODS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE...

FREEZE, HORN! I KNEW YOU'D LEAD ME TO THAT STAKE! THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD HIDING PLACE FOR IT!

LISTEN, GUTHRIE! THERE'S A FORTUNE HERE! I'LL SPLIT IT WITH YOU, BUT GIVE ME A SHARE!

YOU'LL GET NOTHING, HORN! I'VE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT FOR YEARS! NOW, WHEN MY BOYS MOVE THAT BOULDER...

SUDDENLY, AN EAR-SPLITTING ROAR SHOOK THE EARTH...

YOU'LL GET A HOT SULPHUR BATH, YOU RATTLERS! IT'S GOOD FOR VERMIN!

HEY!!

YOU'RE FINISHED, GUTHRIE! YOU PULLED YOUR LAST CROOKED DEAL! MY STAKE IS MILES FROM HERE!

LET'S RUN THEM BACK TO TOWN! I RECKON THE SHERIFF HAS A COZY CELL WAITING FOR THEM!

THE END

RINGO KID

THOSE FOOLS WILL ONLY SCARE THE TEAM MORE WITH THAT SHOUTING!

THE RINGO KID MOVED LIKE A STRIKING PANTHER...

STAY BACK! YOU'LL BE DRAGGED TO DOOM BY THEM LOCO CAYUSES!

AS THE KID SEIZED THE TAUT HARNESS, A GHOSTLY VOICE BOOMED AT HIM...

BE GONE OR BE CHURNED TO DUST AS I AM!

NO HUMAN FORM COULD STOP THESE PLUNGING BLACK STALLIONS AS THEY ROARED THROUGH *GILA CITY* WITH A RIDERLESS STAGE SWAYING WILDLY BEHIND THEM! THE *RINGO KID* HEARD THE SHOUTS OF FRIGHTENED MEN BUT REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE STAGE WAS HAUNTED BY...

"THE GHOST OF SAM MAGEE!"

M-466

THE KID'S GRIP LOOSENED AT THE SOUND OF THE GHOSTLY VOICE...

LET GO THE TRACES OR RIDE TO DOOM!

NOW THE KID HUGGED THE GROUND AS PURSUING HOOFS CHURNED PAST HIM...

THAT'S ONE STAGE THEY'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH!

YOU'RE THE ONLY HOMBRE WHO HAD NERVE TO TACKLE THAT STAGE, RINGO! HOW ABOUT COMING WITH US TO RUN IT DOWN?

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, SHERIFF! THOSE HORSES ARE RUNNING WITH A PHANTOM BREATHING DOWN THEIR NECKS!

FUNNY YOU SAID THAT! THOSE ARE THE WORDS JAKE GRIMLEY USED WHEN THE HORSES SPOOKED FROM IN FRONT OF THE DEPOT. WAS ANYBODY RIDING THAT STAGE?

I DIDN'T SEE ANYBODY, BUT I'D SWEAR I HEARD A VOICE WARNING ME OFF! MAYBE IT WAS MY IMAGINATION!

PHANTOM OR NO PHANTOM, WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT STAGE! IT'S CARRYING OVER TEN THOUSAND IN COLD CASH!

GO TO IT, SHERIFF! IT'S MY HUNCH YOU'RE CHASING A RAINBOW!

LATER, AT THE STAGE DEPOT.

THAT TEAM'S BEEN ACTIN ORNERY EVER SINCE OLD MAN MAGEE DISAPPEARED! HE RAISED THEM CAYUSES FROM COLTS AND THEY WERE THE FASTEST CAVALLOS IN THE TERRITORY!

SAM MAGEE? SEEMS TO ME I'VE HEARD OF HIM! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, JAKE?

NOBODY REALLY KNOWS ABOUT OLD SAM! HE DISAPPEARED ON THE RUN FROM HERE TO PINE PITCH! LOOKED LIKE THE STAGE WAS BUSHWHACKED ON THE WAY!

THE SHERIFF TELLS ME YOU HEARD A VOICE ON THE STAGE! IS THAT TRUE?

DEPOT

NOBODY BELIEVES ME, BUT I DID HEAR A VOICE... AN' IT WAS SAM MAGEE'S! BUT THAT STAGE WAS EMPTY! I CHECKED EVERY INCH OF IT BEFORE THEM HORSES SPOOKED!

JAKE, I BELIEVE YOU! I THINK I HEARD THAT VOICE, MYSELF!

DEPOT

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

CHECK IN WITH PINE PITCH AND SEE IF THE GILA STAGE GETS THERE OKAY! LET ME KNOW IF IT DOES!

I'LL HAVE WORD FOR YOU BY FOUR O'CLOCK, MISTER! IT AIN'T LIKELY THAT STAGE WILL GET THERE IN ONE PIECE!

MEANWHILE ON THE STAGE ROUTE TO PINE PITCH

YONDER COMES THE STAGE, BOYS! LETS FAN OUT AN NAIL IT!

THAT STAGE DON'T LOOK RIGHT TO ME, DESTRY! I CAN'T SEE IT TOO GOOD, BUT IT JUST AIN'T RIGHT!

YOU'RE RIGHT, CALLUM! THERE AIN'T NO DRIVER OR SHOTGUN GUARD ON IT! THAT MAKES IT EASY PICKINGS!

MEBBE SO, BUT IT KIND OF GIVES ME THE CREEPS! AIN'T THAT OLD SAM MAGEE'S TEAM?

THAT STAGE IS CARRYING A FORTUNE IN CASH! DON'T GO GETTIN' COLD FEET ON ME, CALLUM! MOVE!

ALL RIGHT DESTRY! WE'LL TAKE THE STAGE!

MINUTES LATER...

JUMP THAT STAGE AN' GRAB THE TRACES!

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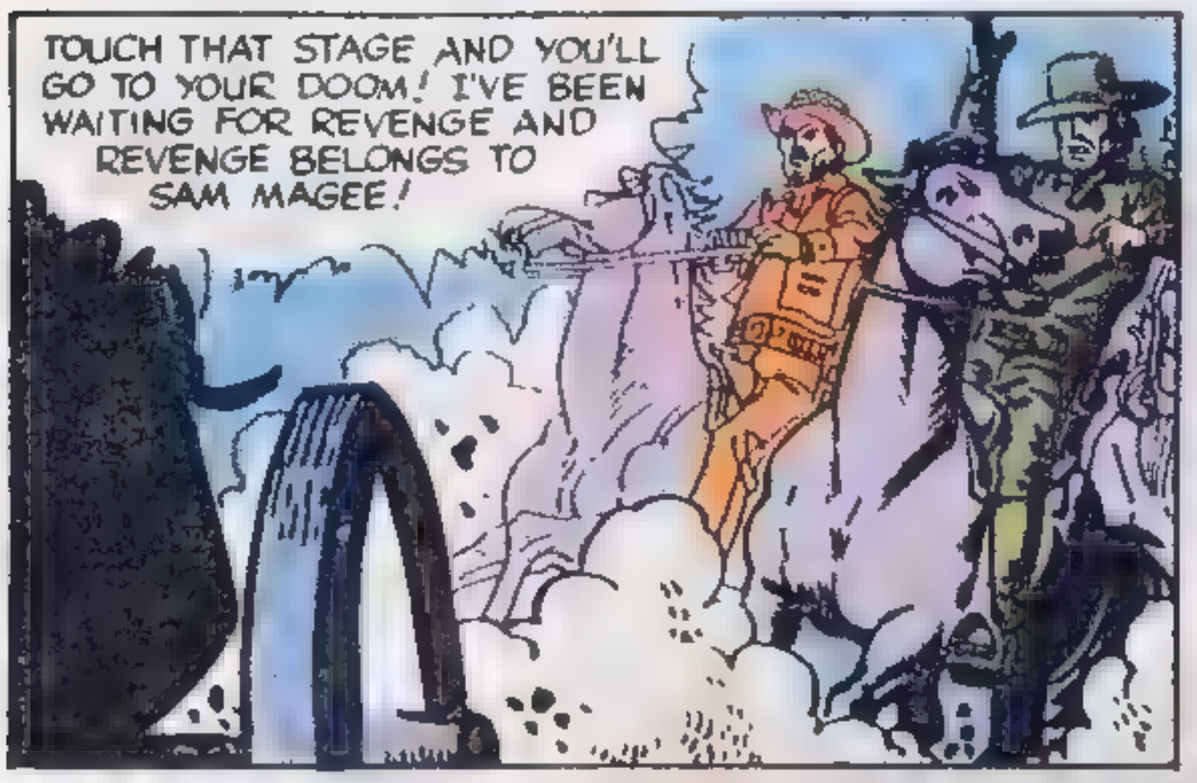
SUDDENLY, A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE BOOMED OUT AT THE ROAD AGENTS...

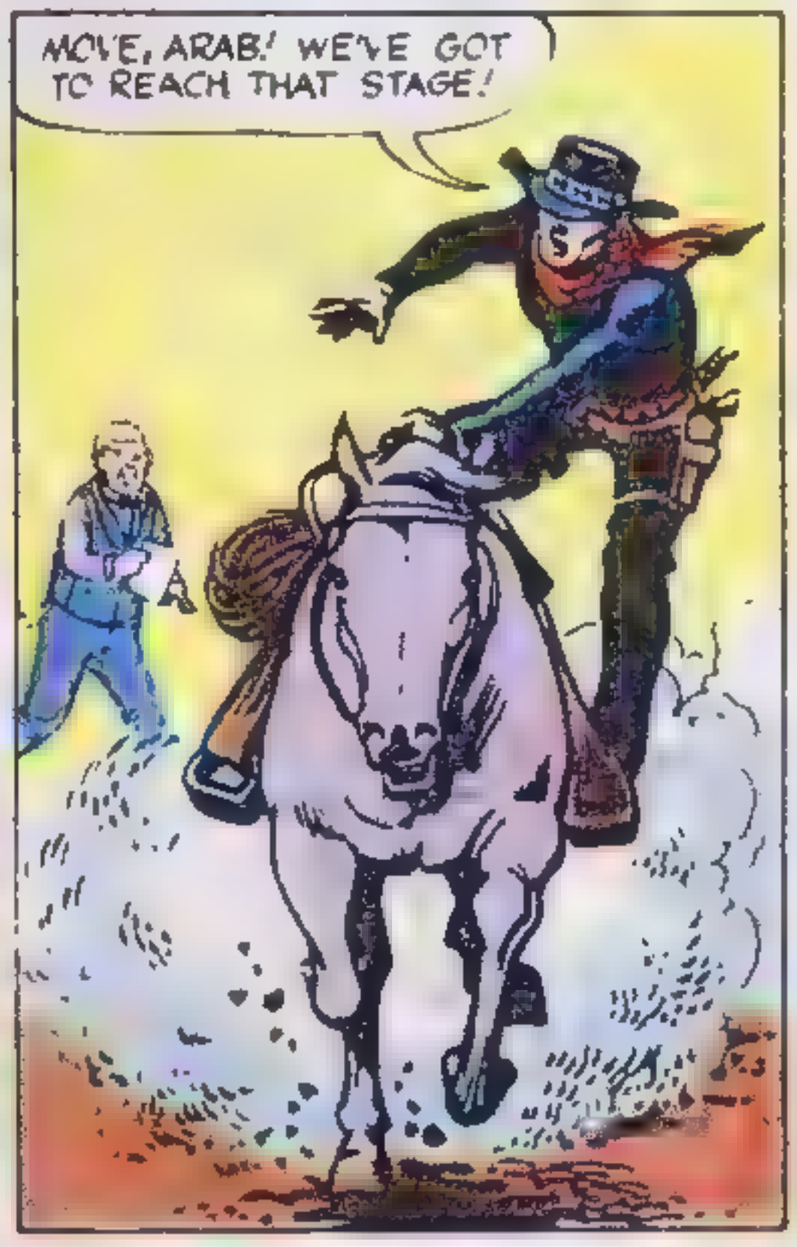


LATER, IN GILA CITY...

ALL TARNATION'S BUSTED LOOSE IN PINE PITCH! LOOKA HERE! THE STAGE GOT IN WITHOUT A SCRATCH, BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED THEN!
WHAT HAPPENED? TALK UP, OLD-TIMER!
TELEGRAPH OFFICE

THEY LOADED THE STAGE WITH GOLD AND A NEW DRIVER. BUT THEM ORNERY HOSSES OF SAM MAGEE'S TOOK OFF AGAIN ON THEIR OWN!
THIS TIME THEY MAY NOT MAKE IT! TOO MANY ROAD AGENTS WILL BE LOOKING FOR A DRIVERLESS STAGE!

THE RINGO KID ROARED OUT TO INTERCEPT THE PHANTOM STAGE...



MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM STAGE ROLLED TO A HALT ON THE TRACKLESS PLAINS BETWEEN PINE PITCH AND GILA CITY.

SUDDENLY FROM BEHIND SOME SAGE BRUSH

ONCE AGAIN, A GHOSTLY VOICE BOOMED EERILY FROM THE STAGE...

YOU'RE THE ROTTEN HOMBRES I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! SPENCER! CADMAN! MATHERS! RECOGNIZE MY VOICE? *IT'S THE VOICE OF SAM MAGEE!*

WHAT? WHERE ARE Y-YOU? SHOW YOUR FACE!

IF SAM MAGEE CAN'T DEAL JUSTICE FROM THE GRAVE, MAYBE *I* CAN! *FREEZE!*

TREMBLING HANDS SOUGHT TO QUELL INWARD FEARS WITH SIX-GUN VIOLENCE, BUT THEIR EFFORTS FAILED...

THE "GHOST" OF SAM MAGEE! GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALIVE AND KICKING!

I'M ALIVE, OKAY... BUT NO THANKS TO THESE SIDE-WINDERS! THEY'RE THE HOMBRES WHO RUINED MY LIFE!

THEY JUMPED MY STAGE AND LEFT ME CRIPPLED! DRIVING A STAGE WAS MY LIFE! I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE, BUT I VOWED TO GET EVEN... AN' I *DID* WITH YOUR HELP!

HOW DID THE HORSES MANAGE TO RUN THE STAGE ON THEIR OWN?

THESE CAYUSES COULD MAKE THE RUN FROM PINE PITCH TO GILA CITY BLINDFOLDED! I KNEW MATHERS AN' HIS RATTLERS WOULD JUMP THE STAGE ONCE MORE.. AN' I WAS WAITIN'!

SAM, GET UP ON THAT STAGE AND RUN IT THROUGH! LOTS OF FOLKS WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE THE "GHOST" OF SAM MAGEE... IN THE FLESH!

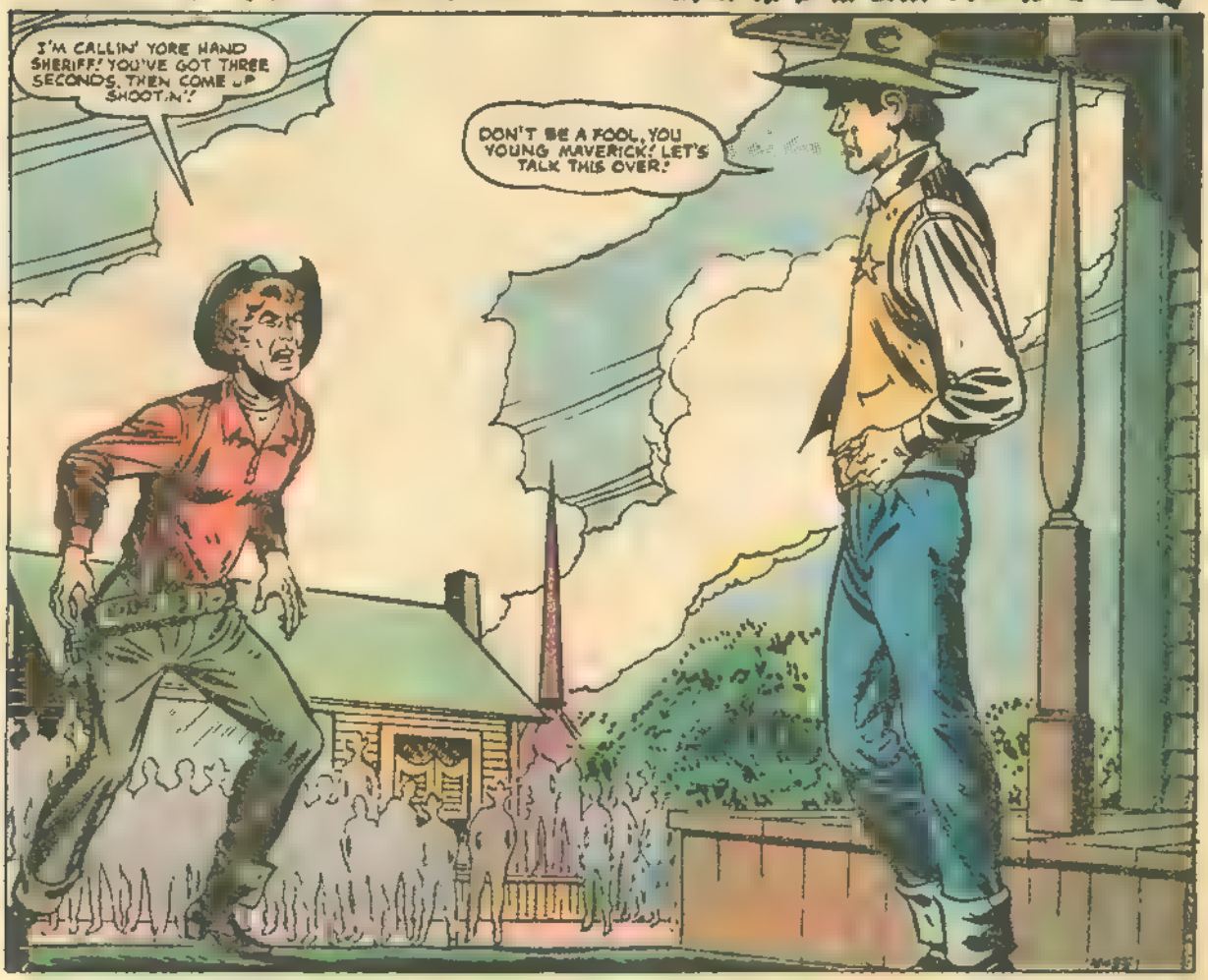
ADIOS, SAM! FOR A "GHOST", YOU'RE THE BEST STAGE DRIVER IN THE TERRITORY!

YAHOO! I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN AT THESE REINS AGAIN!

THE END

FOR MANY WEEKS BEN GORDON NURSED HIS GROWING HATE, AND THEN HE PICKED HIS MOMENT! THE TIME WAS A LITTLE BEFORE NOON, AND THE PLACE WAS...

The STREETS of LARRAME!


I'M CALLIN' YORE HAND SHERIFF! YOU'VE GOT THREE SECONDS, THEN COME UP SHOOTIN'!
DON'T BE A FOOL, YOU YOUNG MAVERICK! LET'S TALK THIS OVER!

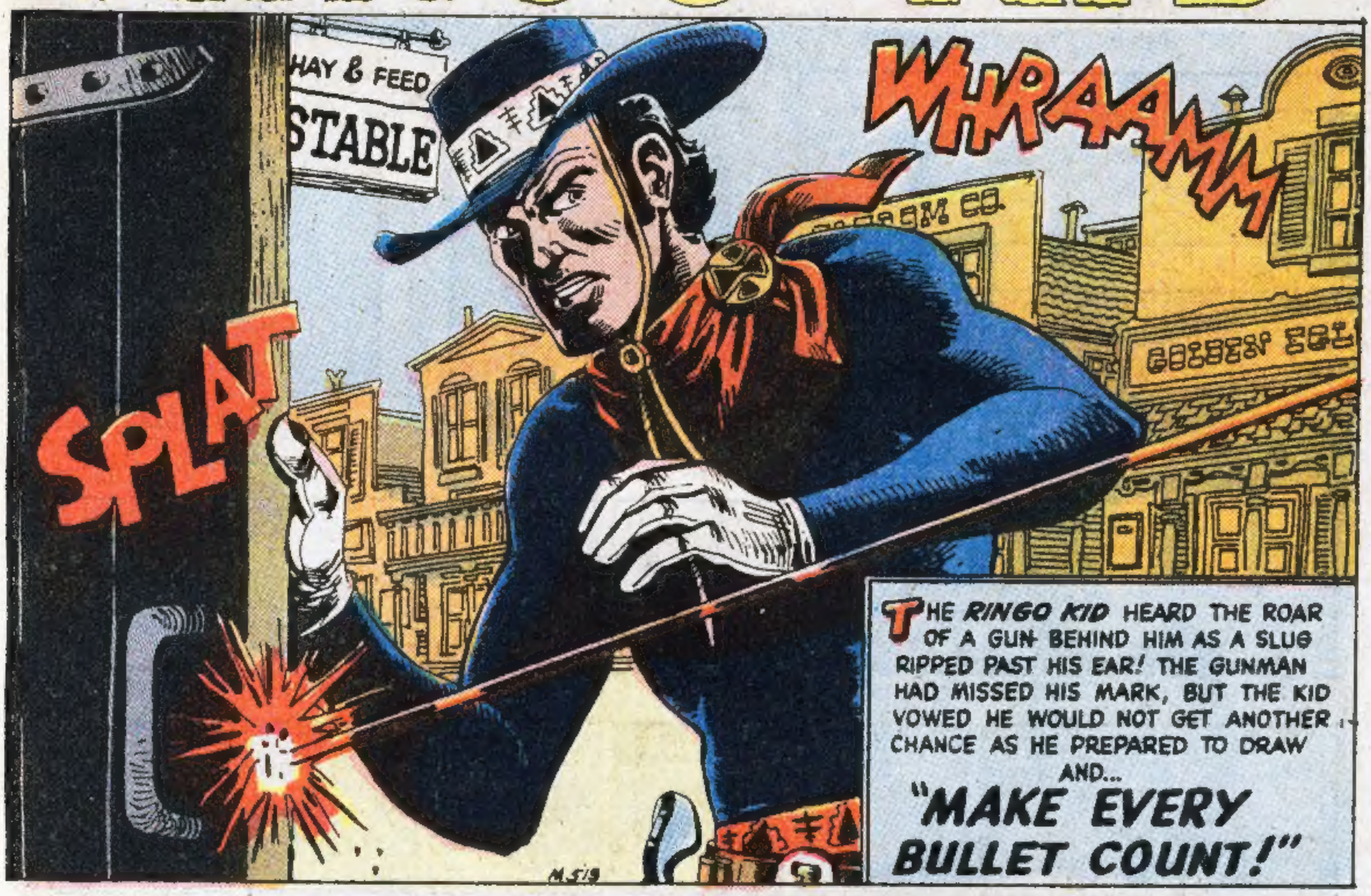
WE AIN'T THROUGH YET! I'M GONNA..
NO YOU DON'T! WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS HERE AND NOW!
I DON'T COTTON TO YOUNG STRANGERS LOOKING FOR GUNPLAY! WHO ARE YOU?
THE NAME'S BEN GORDON JOSH GORDON'S BROTHER!
KILLING YOUR BROTHER WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T WANT TO DO, BEN...HE WAS CHALLENGIN' EVERYONE ON MAIN STREET! YOUR BROTHER WAS MEAN CLEAN THROUGH! WHEN I ORDERED HIM OUT OF TOWN, HE DREW! I WAS FASTER!
THAT AIN'T THE WAY IT WAS! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU KILLED JOSH, AND I'M GOIN' TO SETTLE WITH YOU, SHERIFF. SOONER OR LATER!
YOU'RE FORCIN' MY HAND, BEN
I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU UP FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
JUST A MINUTE, SHERIFF.. PLEASE...
WOULD YOU RELEASE HIM IN MY CUSTODY, SHERIFF? I'LL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE REQUEST, MR. WALLACE! BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO SOMETHING WITH HIM, ALL RIGHT...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN WALLACE'S HOUSE.
I APPRECIATE YOUR SPEAKING UP, MR. WALLACE! RECKON YOU'RE 'BOUT THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS TOWN WHO SHARES MY VIEWS ON THE SHERIFF!
THAT SN'T SO..
YOU'RE A STRANGER IN LARRAME THE SAME AS YOUR BROTHER JOSH WAS! MAYBE YOU DION'T REALLY KNOW THE KIND OF A MAN HE WAS
"BUT I SAW HIS BULLYING AGGRESSIVENESS W TH MY OWN EYES.."
I SAY YOU RE A SPINELESS PRAIRE DOG WITHOUT AN OUNCE OF FIGHT IN YUH!
YOU CAN'T CALL ME THAT!
I'LL SHOW YOU... OH-HHH!
THAT BOY HAD NO CHANCE! HE WAS NO GUNMAN BUT YOUR BROTHER PROVOKED HIM! TO HIM IT WAS A GAME!
THAT'S A LIE!
I'LL TEACH YUH TO... OH-HH!
THERE'LL BE NO GUNPLAY! THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH!

LOOK! THAT YOUNG MAN YOUR BROTHER KILLED! HE WAS MY SON!
YOUR SON? J JOSH KILLED HIM..?
AND YOU CAME TO LARRAME TO AVENGE YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH! IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A JUST CLAIM AGAINST THE SHERIFF, THEN I SHOULD HAVE A GREATER CLAIM AGAINST YOU!
NO! YOU WOULDN'T...
HERE'S YOUR GUN! RECKON YOU SEE THE PICTURE MORE CLEARLY NOW!
SLOWLY THE DEFIANCE WENT OUT OF THE YOUNG MAN'S EYES..
GOOD-BYE, SIR! I'LL BE REMEMBERING THIS... ALWAYS...
HE HEADED NORTH OUT OF LARRAME, LOOKING NEITHER RIGHT NOR LEFT AND THE HATE THAT WAS IN HIS HEART WAS NO LONGER THERE ..
S FARGO
HE RODE RIGHT PAST ME! LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN ALTOGETHER!
RECKON HE IS DIFFERENT, SHERIFF! FUNNY WHAT A LITTLE WHITE LIE CAN DO SOMETIMES! BY THE WAY, STEVE AND I ARE EXPECTING YOU OVER FOR DINNER TONIGHT, SHERIFF... HIS WOUNDED SHOULDER IS JUST ABOUT HEALED UP, NOW!
THE END

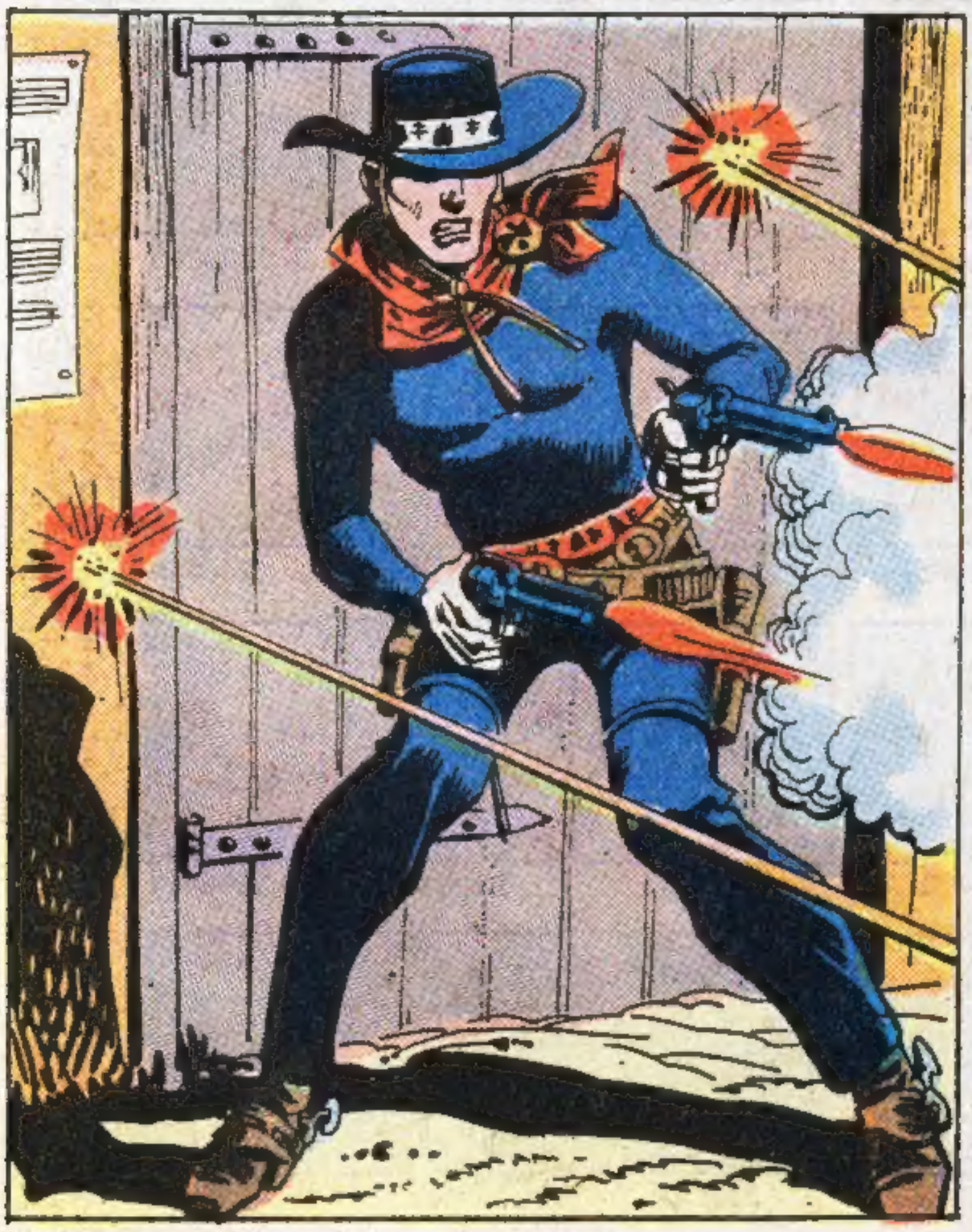
RINGO KID



THE *RINGO KID* HEARD THE ROAR OF A GUN BEHIND HIM AS A SLUG RIPPED PAST HIS EAR! THE GUNMAN HAD MISSED HIS MARK, BUT THE KID VOWED HE WOULD NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE AS HE PREPARED TO DRAW AND...

"MAKE EVERY BULLET COUNT!"

THE KID WHIRLED WITH SIX-GUNS READY AS TWO MORE SLUGS CHEWED PAST HIM IN QUICK SUCCESSION...



ABRUPTLY, THE LOOK OF RAGE ON THE KID'S FACE CHANGED TO ONE OF ASTONISHED RECOGNITION...

HOWDY, AMIGO! I HAD TO WORK FAST TO SAVE MYSELF FROM THOSE SPITTING GUNS OF YOURS AFTER I FIRED THAT FIRST SHOT!
BUZZ ORURY! WHY, YOU RING-TAILED COYOTE! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS YOU!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BUZZ, YOU CAN STILL THROW LEAD INTO A CARTWHEEL AND LEAVE LOTS OF ROOM FOR MORE!

I RECKON SO, RINGO, BUT I'D HATE TO SWAP LEAD WITH **YOU** IN A SHOWDOWN! YOU'RE LOOKIN' GREAT, COMPADRE!

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE DUSTY TOWN OF POWDER KEG, BUZZ? I THOUGHT YOU WERE LEADING A LIFE OF EASE ON YOUR FATHER'S RANCH?

I **WAS**, UNTIL A MESS OF TROUBLE SHOWED UP AT THE RANCH AND STAKED A CLAIM ON IT!

I INHERITED THE RANCH AFTER DAD DIED, BUT A HALF BROTHER SHOWED UP TO CLAIM IT! HE HAD ALL THE LEGAL PAPERS ON HIS SIDE TO BACK HIS CLAIM!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! DIDN'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS HALF BROTHER?

I HEARD ABOUT CADMAN DRURY WHEN I WAS A KID BUT BELIEVE ME, RINGO, I CAN'T BELIEVE MY FATHER'S BLOOD RUNS IN THAT LOWDOWN RAMROD'S VEIN! HE JUST ISN'T LIKE US DRURYS!

CADMAN DRURY? WAIT A MINUTE, BUZZ! I KNEW A MAN BY THAT NAME AND WHAT'S MORE I SAW HIM *DIE* IN A GUNFIGHT OUT IN ZARAGOSA ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO!

THIS DRURY WAS A WILDCAT! HE WAS ON THE PROD IN ZARAGOSA WHEN FOUR HARDCASES DRYGULCHED HIM! IT WAS A GREAT FIGHT, BUT DRURY WENT DOWN!

MOUNT UP, BUZZ! I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO DRURY'S GRAVE IN ZARAGOSA! IT MIGHT BE ANOTHER MAN...

IMPOSSIBLE! THERE AIN'T MANY DRURYS IN THE TERRITORY AND THE HOMBRE YOU'RE SPEAKING OF SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF US!

IT WAS LATE THAT AFTERNOON WHEN THE TWO MEN REACHED BOOT-HILL IN THE TOWN OF ZARAGOSA!

THAT'S THE GRAVE, BUT SOMEBODY'S KNOCKED OFF THE INSCRIPTION! DRURY'S NAME WAS ON THAT HEADSTONE WHEN I LAST SAW IT!

THE TOWN CLERK MUST HAVE A RECORD OF IT! LET'S GO!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THERE IT IS, BOYS! AIN'T NOBODY BY THE NAME OF DRURY EVER BURIED HERE! RECKON YOU MUST HAVE THE WRONG PARTY!

I RECKON SO! WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR TROUBLE!

HE WAS LYING, BUZZ! THE ENTIRE PAGE WAS TORN OUT OF THE RECORD BOOK!

I SAW IT! SOMEBODY'S TRYIN' AWFUL HARD TO COVER UP THE TRACKS OF CADMAN DRURY'S DEATH AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH *WHO* IT IS!

FREEZE! YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO FOLLOW UP THAT HUNCH! MOVE BACK INTO THIS OFFICE SLOW AND EASY!

A SIGNAL PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO MEN AND FOUR SIX-GUNS LEAPED TO OBEY IT...

GO BACK INSIDE AND SAVE A PLACE IN THAT BOOT-HILL RECORD BOOK FOR YOURSELF!

WE'RE HEADIN' FOR THE RANCH AND A CRACK AT THE HOMBRE WHO'S POSIN' AS MY HALF BROTHER!

YOU RECKON TWO PAIRS OF COLTS CAN MAKE HIM SEE THE LIGHT?

MEANWHILE, AT THE DRURY RANCH...

WE GOT ALL THE LIVESTOCK ROUNDED UP, YARBO! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

STACK SOME HAY ALL AROUND THE RANCH HOUSE AND THE STABLES! LIGHT 'EM UP! I WANT THIS PLACE BURNED TO THE GROUND BEFORE WE LEAVE!

YARBO, I DON'T GET THIS WHOLE IDEA! YOU GOT THIS SPREAD FREE AN' CLEAR...AN' NOW YOU WANT TO WRECK IT... WHY?

BECAUSE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SOME RANNY STARTS POKIN' AROUND ZARAGOSA AN' FINDS OUT WE BUSH-WHACKED THE ***REAL*** CADMAN DRURY SO ***I*** COULD TAKE HIS PLACE!

WE ALREADY ROUND OUT, YOU SIDEWINDER! MAKE YOUR PLAY!

TAKE THEM, BOYS!

THEY MOVED LIKE TRAPPED RATTLERS, BUT FOUR ROARING COLTS HELD THEM AT BAY...

I'LL HOLD 'EM! YOU HOMBRES PUT THE TORCH TO THIS SPREAD!

BETTER NOT TRY!

AIN'T NO USE FIGHTIN'! LET'S GET OUT THE BACK ENTRANCE!

ALL RIGHT, BUT I STILL AIM TO WRECK THIS SPREAD!

MOUNT UP! WE'VE GOT TO SNARE THOSE OTHER TWO COYOTES!

THEY'RE BREAKIN' FOR THE GATE! HOW CAN WE KEEP 'EM CORRALLED?

SHOOT FOR THE GUY ROPES HOLDING IT UP!

ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE SHATTERING SLUGS FRAYED AND SLASHED THE ROPES, AND FINALLY...

LIKE THAT?

COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER WITH A KNIFE! WE'VE GOT 'EM TREED!

CRACK CRACK

SLAM!

WELL, THE RANCH IS YOURS, DRURY! WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?

FIRST I'VE GOT TO RUN THESE COYOTES IN TO THE SHERIFF! THEN I'VE GOT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE GRAVE OF CADMAN! HE DIED LIKE A REAL DRURY AN' DESERVES THE BEST!

THE END